1	2	3	4
14.	Karnataka	1	Mysore (Mysore)
15.	Gujarat	3	i) Ahmedabad (Ahmedabad)
			ii) Bhuj (Kutch)
			iii) Surat (Surat)
16.	Maharashra	2	i) Pune (Pune)
			ii) Mumbai (Mumbai)
17.	Madhya Pradesh	1	Bnopal (Bhopal)
18.	Chhatisgarh	1	Raipur (Raipur)
19.	Assam	1	Guwahati (Guwahati)
20.	Nagaland	1	Dimapur (Kohima)
21.	Tripura	1	Agartala (Agartala)
	TOTAL:	32	

Constitution of a Committee to promote trade with Britain

†*22 SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to constitute the joint economic and trade committee to promote trade with Britain;

(b) if so, the possible sectors for export and import with Britain; and

(c) the other sectors where the trade can be promoted and the facilities proposed to be given to the Indian traders by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. An Indo-UK Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) has been constituted for enhancement of bilateral trade and investment between India and Britain.

(b) The Committee has identified agriculture, infrastructure including energy, services and knowledge-based industries as potential areas for increased trade and/or investment.

(c) Trade and industry will be facilitated by, *inter alia* holding of UK-India

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Investment Summit, dialogue between interested private sector organisations on cooperation in infrastructure, provision of increased bilateral air services, contracts with major high tech clusters in UK etc. The existing trade promotion facilities would be available to Indian industry in trading with Britain.

Comparative Cost of Solar Energy

*23. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) how does the cost of solar energy compare with other sources of energy;

(b) what are the advantages to the consumers for preferring this;

(c) whether it costs less to the consumer; and

(d) whether it also ensures continued supply in different weather conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (c) Solar energy can be harnessed through two routes, namely solar photovoltaic and solar thermal, by direct conversion to electricity and heat energy respectively. At present, the initial costs of both types of solar energy systems are higher compared to the cost of conventional energy systems. This is partly on account of the fact that solar energy systems use expensive materials, some of which are imported. However, considering the fact that solar systems do not reqire any fuel, the recurring costs are lower. Therefore, the cost of some products such as solar water heaters, solar cookers and solar lanterns can be lower than that of conventional energy products when calculated over the life of the systems. Among other advantages of solar energy systems are long life, reliability, low maintenance and no pollution.

(d) Continuous supply of energy can be ensured through storage of electricity in batteries or of heat in appropriate storage systems. As a